I propose to send you £10 on april 5th as before by Monte

1871

Rome 3rd March

My dear Maria

I begin to be very uneasy about my dear brother & beg you to write & tell me about him. I wrote Emma but there is not time yet for her answer I think—

The Rev? Charles Gribble British Chaplain at Constantinople (lately here) told me that Caroline had paid him a visit & that he was anxious to show her every attention on my account & as I have been useful to him I trust he may be of use to her—he is on his way back

You'll be pleased to know that I am making a great figure in the Pope's exhibition particularly with my large picture of the two Angels in the Holy Sepulchre, indeed my Roman friends tell me that I am sure to have the great prize for that my work is out & out the best, but I myself do not at all think that I have a chance as I am

a protestant Also my work begins to excite
jealousy in the Roman Catholic world, but
Mr Odo Russell thinks on the contrary that
as I am doing such great credit to my country
I must battle it out against all opposition
this does not suit me for I cannot bear worry
& the fight might kill me so my feeling is
to let it all take its own chance – most certain
I am astonished at the good result of my work
but seems so much better as a picture than
I expected – our weather has been very damp
the rain continued for months & I was not told
you that I suffered shut up in the house so
that progress is still slow & I am not equal to
any great effort, yet I contrive to do all my
duties the greatest of which is in my receiving
numerous visitors during the day, doing all
kinds of act of politeness as regards Rome &
attending audiences of the ministers. – Of course
in the eve. I am not worth much tho' I do
go out to dine now & then – I rise very early

even now at 1/2 p. 6 when it is light — During the winter my dinner is in the ev^g. at 6 & after Easter at 3 — This summer I trust to go again to Tolfa for the air & the waters & where I am treated so kindly that I may go every Summer

I think I told you about my having been able to supply these good people with water, for the town had none & yet I was sure that it existed in the near mountains & so it has turned out — the people are very grateful to me

Just now I am occupied in raising a tomb to a very dear f^d Thomas Desperbay an English landscape painter who had been 53 years in Rome — The Cemetery for Protestants is singularly beautiful, not only is the monument being sculptured with portraits but the place like a garden from the prodigality of flowers & trees — it has the antique pyramid near — Keats's was the first tomb I placed & now there are hundreds — but 'tis often I go as I am not only reminded of such dear f^ds but I see their portraits on the tombs — At last we have got good Spring weather & the Villas are carpetted with flowers — Violets & Anemonies — I am always reminded at this season of my dear Mary who when

an infant

me a charming letter & sent me her
more charming portrait. – I think my
dear boy is making a good marriage
as Mr John Ruskin is the guardian of
Miss Joan Agnew the bride & he speaks
of artists works as being equal to Turners
You'll be glad to know that I have taken
my place under the new gov^t in real
good style & the ministers are willing
to do any & every thing for me – My
labour is scanty now my I take in Constantt
is gone & I have only one Sec^y but I have
now plenty of leisure for my painting & ale
my hobby of which writing is a great one
I have been so fortunate as to keep a journal
of all the wonderful events of these 10 years
of my Consulate & may perhaps make a
history out of it for no doubt the Papacy
has come to an end at last. With my love to
all your dear ones Your loving brother Joe